

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording medium comprising a first substrate and a second substrate having a holographic recording layer between the first substrate and the second substrate, the holographic recording layer containing:

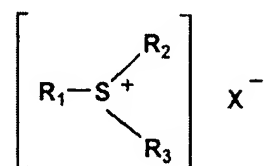
(A) a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization;

(B) a polymerizable compound having an ethylenic double bond in the molecule;

(C) a photoinitiator; and

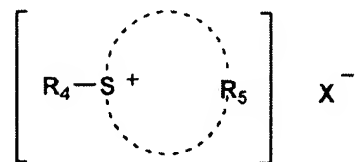
(D) a cross-linking agent which reacts with the reactive group in the binder compound at a temperature in the range of 40 to 150°C, wherein the cross-linking agent is a thermal cationic polymerization initiator, represented by Formula (1) or Formula (2):

Formula (1)



wherein R₁ is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, each R₂ and R₃ is independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl group, and X⁻ is a counter anion;

Formula (2)



wherein R₄ is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl group, R₅ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group which forms 5 or 6-membered ring with sulfur, and X⁻ is a counter anion.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 2, wherein the holographic recording layer further contains an acid multiplying agent.
4. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the holographic recording layer further contains a spectral sensitizing dye.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 5, wherein the binder compound is a liquid at 20° C or has a melting point of not more than 100 ° C.
8. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the ethylenic double bond in the polymerizable compound is an acryloyl or methacryloyl group.
9. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the polymerizable compound has a refractive index of not less than 1.55.
10. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein a thickness of the first substrate (d1), a thickness of the second substrate (d2) and a thickness of the holographic recording layer (Dh) satisfy the following formula:
$$0.15 \leq Dh/(d1 + d2) \leq 2.0$$
11. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 10, wherein the thickness of the holographic recording layer (Dh) is 200 μm to 2.0 mm.

12. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 10, wherein the thickness of the first substrate (d1) and the thickness of the second substrate (d2) satisfy the following formula:

$$d1 \leq d2$$

13. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the first substrate is transparent and has an antireflective outer surface and an inner surface, the antireflective outer surface being opposite to the inner surface and the inner surface facing the holographic recording layer.

14. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the first substrate is a glass plate.

15. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein an inner surface or an outer surface of the second substrate is coated with a reflective layer having a reflective index of not less than 70%, the inner surface being a surface which has the holographic recording layer thereon.

16. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein a shape of the holographic recording medium is a disc form.

17. (Original) The holographic recording medium of claim 1, wherein a shape of the holographic recording medium is a card form.

18. (Previously presented) A method of forming a holographic image using a holographic recording medium comprising a first substrate and a second substrate having a holographic recording layer between the two substrate, the holographic recording layer containing:

(A) a binder compound having a reactive group which is capable of cationic polymerization;

(B) a polymerizable compound having an ethylenic double bond in the molecule;

(C) a photoinitiator; and

(D) a cross-linking agent which reacts with the reactive group in the binder compound at a temperature in the range of 40 to 150°C and further a thermal cationic polymerization initiator,

the method comprising the steps of:

(i) irradiating the holographic recording medium with a first light so as to cross-link the binder compound and the cross-linking agent, provided that the first light has not a property of activating the photoinitiator;

(ii) irradiating the holographic recording medium with a second light based on information to be recorded so as to activate the photoinitiator;

(iii) polymerizing the activated photoinitiator with the polymerizable compound (B) to form the holographic image.

19. (Previously Presented) The holographic image forming method of claim 18, comprising further the step of:

(iv) irradiating the holographic recording medium with a light or subjecting the holographic recording medium to heat so as to stabilize the holographic image after completion of the step (iii).

20. (Previously presented) A method of forming a holographic image using a holographic recording medium comprising a first substrate and a second substrate having a holographic recording layer between the two substrate, the holographic recording layer containing:

(A) a binder compound having a reactive group which is capable of cationic polymerization;

(B) a polymerizable compound having an ethylenic double bond in the molecule;

(C) a photoinitiator; and

(D) a cross-linking agent which reacts with the reactive group in the binder compound at a temperature in the range of 40 to 150°C and further a thermal cationic polymerization initiator,

the method comprising the steps of:

(i) irradiating the holographic recording medium with a light based on information to be recorded so as to activate the photoinitiator;

(ii) polymerizing the activated photoinitiator with the polymerizable compound to form the holographic image; and

(iii) irradiating the holographic recording medium with a light or subjecting the holographic recording medium to heat so as to stabilize the holographic image after completion of the step (ii).

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, further comprising heating the holographic medium to partially cross-link the binder compound (A) with the cross-linking agent (D) prior to irradiating the holographic recording medium